

LETTER

Concerning the Remarks upon the con-
siderations of Trade, by the Author
of the 4th ESSAY, at removing Na-
tional Prejudices.

SIR,

I Have seen the 4th Essay at removing National prejudices a-
gainst the Union, wherein the Author takes to Task several
other Authors, nor of his Side, among the rest, he attacks
the Author of the *Considerations upon Trade*, but I am of
the Opinion, he will not boast much of his Success.

The first thing in these *Considerations* offends him, is, the de-
mand, That there should be more Draw-back allowed Fish ex-
ported than the Duty of the Salt wherewith they are cured,
which he ridicules, as deserving no Answer; Not considering that
the *English* have the same draw back for fishes cured with *Eng-
lish* Salt, which he him'self acknowledge, pays only 3: sh: 4: d:
per Bushel of Duty as they would allow to us when our fishes are
cured with Salt, which pays by his Account 6: sh: 8: d: per
Bushel

Edinburgh 1796

Bushel, tho' by others that know as well as he) pays 10 *sh.* per Bushel: So here is an excellent Equivalent. But it seems the Gentleman has been offended at the Word *Draw back*, because, if it exceed the Duty, it should be called *Bounty*; as he observes, when he comments on the demand of a *Draw back* for *Bar*, *Pease* and *Oats*, which he thinks Nonsense, for (if his Word may be taken) he tells you plainly, That our *Bar* is the same kind as *Barley*, for which, there is a *Bounty* of 2: *sh.* and 6: *d.* per Quarter; And as for *Pease* and *Oats*, (and perhaps *Oat-meal* too, if he had minded it) He tells you, *England* wants them, and will take the greatest quantity the *Scots* can spare. Sure this is the first time ever that was advanced, and if we must rely upon that as his *Bounty*, 'tis a valuable Encouragement.

He then goes on to tell, That the Author of the *Considerations* demands Liberty to export the Woollen Manufactures, &c which he thinks a very weak demand, not considering, that *English* Manufacture is under Regulations, and that they have none of that sort of Woollen Manufacture we Export: Beside he does not mind, or does not know, that all our Cloth exported (course, as it is) is White, and that each piece of White Cloth in *England*, when exported, pays 5 *sh.* of Duty, which upon some pieces of ours, may be half the value.

All these things, says that Author, are trifling, and of no Consequence: He proceeds to notice the *Objection* against the Article of the Treaty anent the Shipping, and brings us a most excellent ingenious *Salvo*, That *English* Ships will bring us from *Holland* or *Germany* any Goods whatsoever, without letting the *Dutch* in our Trade; A very good Argument to bring us into the Treaty!

He answers the Demand of a Port in *Scotland*, to import *Irish* Wool, That there is no need to condition in the Treaty for it, being on demand we might have as many as we please, the Restraining being only for the *Irish*: never considering, that there is an Act for encouraging the Import of Wool from *Ireland* in the 7th and 8th of *William* and *Mary*, and a Restriction to import only, at particular Ports in *England*, and none other.

He



He concludes, that all the mighty Demands are over, and then comes to the *Calculation* for the *Equivalents*. I confess, I do not understand *Equivalents*: But I think this Author of the *Essay* makes this *Equivalent* serve every Turn. He tells us, that we receive above 304066 L. as an *Equivalent* for the *Excise* upon *Beer* and *Ale*; so we cannot demand a *Freedom of Excise*: never minding all this time, That by the *Treaty*, the *African Company* is to be pay'd their *Summs*, advanced with 5 per cent. of *Interest*, which I thought a very small *Equivalent* to them for sinking their *Company* and *Privileges*, but he cannot but think otherways, considering how respectfully he treats the *African Company*: For, says he, it neither is, nor in his opinion, ever was, in prospect of *Success*, or worth any *Main motives*, as to *Scotland* in *Trade*, and that it signifies not two *Farthings*, whether dissolved or no: He would also have us take his Word on it; That there is no exclusive *Company* in *England* but the *East-India Company*; just as in another place p. 3d of his *Essay*, he will assure us, That the *Ale* or *Beer* sold at 10 to 12 sh: *sterl.* per *Barrel*, is reckoned small *Beer*, which pays only 1 sh: and 3 d: of *Excise*, albeit the *English Act of Parliament* is very distinct, That all *Ale* and *Beer* above 6 sh: value per *Barrel*, is reckoned strong, and pays the highest *Excise*. He is very positive, there is no *Colony* in *New-found land*, tho' perhaps the Author of the *Considerations* be as well informed as he; however he passes over with Silence, that these concerned in the *New found land Fishing* pay no *Taxes* for *Salt*, only if you will believe him, it will never interfere with the *Scots Fishery*, but rather increase the *Scots Trade* for the *Cod fishing*.

I observe that in the conclusion of the *Essay*, the author tells us, that tho' he had made a calculation of the *Balances* of trade between *Scotland* and *England* after the *Union*, yet he had layed it aside, till he removed such objections, as he terms weak in themselves. He truly has a better opinion of himself, than I apprehend many *Scotsmen* will have, and if his extended *Calcule* be like the *Abridgement*, I am afraid it will not answer his expectation. The Gentleman makes *England* debtor to *Scotland* for *Lintseed*

of *Barley Oyl, Corns, particularly Oats, Pease, and Malt, Wooll & Lin-
crease of Shipping, in all these*—It seems he knows little of *Scotland's*
Trade with England, when he imagines that they take from us
these particulars. When he comes to give *England Credit* for
what goods are brought them from *Scotland*, he forgets a great
many particulars that he will find come to a considerable balance,
he minds nothing of Rich *Silk Stuffs*, and perhaps *Silver & Gold*
Stuffs. And all Stuffs of that kind, except it be in the article, he
calls *Trinkets* and toys for *Ladys*.

He minds nothing of *Grocery Ware*, and other goods we used
to bring from *Holland* or *Germany* albeit he tell us, *English* ships
must bring this to us. He forgets that he tells us in answer to
our complaints, on the duty on *Iron*, that after the *Union*, *England*
can afford us great quantities. It seems he has never heard of *Bend*
Leather, which *England* must afford us. He knows nothing of
Clocks, Watches, *Horse-furniture* and a great many more particu-
lars I shall not insist on; but when he recollects all this & rectifies
his abridgement as well as his calcule, I dare say he will never
adventure to affirm that *Scotland* shall have the balance of
Trade above 300000 *Lib Ster.* On Her Side. I shall not
trouble you with this gentlemen's politicks, only would intreat
he would take that advice to himself, he has offered to others; to
make no assertions but what may be justified, No calculations
but what will bear to be examined: to make no suggestions but
what are probable; nor estimates but what are rational: lest he de-
serve the character he has rashly given to others, of being *Ignor-
ant and extravagant*.



F I N I S

